Here is one: *What are the state flowers of the New England States?* Maine—pine cone and plume or tassel; New Hampshire—purple lilac; Massachusetts—mayflower; Connecticut—mountain laurel; Rhode Island—violet; Vermont—red clover. *And the state birds:* Maine and Massachusetts—black capped chickadee; New Hampshire—purple finch; Rhode Island—bobwhite; Connecticut—robin; Vermont—hermit thrush.

Mrs. W. H. Wardwell, Springfield, Mass., raises the question of "love spoons". She writes: "The young men (Welsh) made these spoons in the 16th to the 19th centuries. They carved them in the winter months, according to the one authority, and presented them each to his respective lady-love in the spring. If she accepted the spoon, they became engaged and were married; then the spoons were hung on the wall and treasured elsewhere as a beloved love-symbol." Anybody ever hear of them in Vermont? Perhaps our Welsh folks down Granby-Poultney way can help us out.

A. W. P.

SOMETHING OLD — SOMETHING NEW

A new member, Colonel Fred S. Kent, who heads the Selective Service System in the State, has offered to the Society the flaxwheel which has been in his family for generations and is believed to have belonged to the household of Colonel Jacob Davis, Revolutionary veteran, pioneer leader and settler of Montpelier in 1788. Mrs. Kent, too, has reasons for depositing the flaxwheel in the Society's Museum. Hers was the Wheaton family, which owned and operated the quarry producing the granite for the second State House, completed in October 1838. We note from the record: "Teams composed of four horses and a yoke of oxen left Barre at 4 o'clock in the morning, arriving at the quarries, loaded with the aid of skids and rolls, and then drove to Montpelier, unloaded and returned to Barre, arriving home at 10 o'clock — eighteen hours — 25 miles." Although the 2nd State House burned, that granite was saved for restoration into the present State House, or third building.

Thank you, Colonel and Mrs. Kent.

THETFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Thetford Historical Society spent the greater part of the day on Saturday, July 22nd, at your Museum and Library. Headed by President Richard Fowle, a group of twenty-six members and friends came in cars, browsed around during the morning, had a picnic lunch at Hubbard Park (Montpelier) and proceeded to Kents' Tavern at Kents' Corner, Calais. It made an interesting day and your staff was glad to be on hand.

OUR GRAND LADY

Just a word — although many more are warranted — to tell you that Mrs. Mary Greene Nye has turned over her work to another. Under authority of the Secretary of State, Mrs. Nye has spent years bringing to light many valuable manuscript documents from every nook and cranny where they had lain for more than a century. Long before others in Vermont became conscious of the value of the obscure records, Mrs. Nye was carrying on extensive research in early State history and indexing and editing official State papers. It was through her painstaking work that this invaluable mine of information was made available.

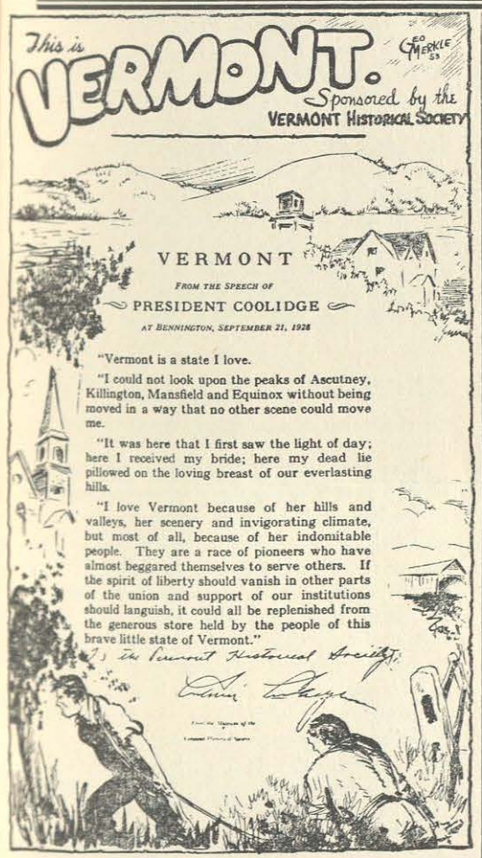
Well-known to historians throughout this country and Canada, Mrs. Mary G. Nye is truly the State's grand lady.

THE VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MONTPELIER, VERMONT

News & Notes

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY

Volume 2 September 1950 Number 1


This is VERMONT.
Sponsored by the VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
VERMONT
FROM THE SPEECH OF
PRESIDENT COOLIDGE
AT BENNINGTON, SEPTEMBER 21, 1928
"Vermont is a state I love.
"I could not look upon the peaks of Ascutney, Killington, Mansfield and Equinox without being moved in a way that no other scene could move me.
"It was here that I first saw the light of day; here I received my bride; here my dead lie pillowed on the loving breast of our everlasting hills.
"I love Vermont because of her hills and valleys, her scenery and invigorating climate, but most of all, because of her indomitable people. They are a race of pioneers who have almost beggared themselves to serve others. If the spirit of liberty should vanish in other parts of the union and support of our institutions should languish, it could all be replenished from the generous store held by the people of this brave little state of Vermont."

VERMONT NEWSPAPERS CARRY SPECIAL FEATURE

V. H. S. Popularizes History

We have mentioned from time to time the series of cartoons, *This is Vermont,* sponsored by your Society and carried by the *Barre Daily Times,* the *Brattleboro Reformer,* the *Burlington Free Press,* and the *Rutland Herald.* (We hope to extend the service to others.) We have quoted editorials praising the series — and our little hints have apparently aroused your curiosity. Those of you who have not had access to the dailies that carry them have asked for leaflets or proofs — or something. So here is an illustration of one used during the second week of July. One of these days, with the assistance of good friends of the Society on the financial end, we hope to be able to publish a book of the cartoons. It should be of exceptional value to teachers and our schools in addition to adult readers generally who like history in pictures as well as text.

It is said that ours is the only Society in the country sponsoring such a series. We were fortunate in obtaining the services of George Merkle, now of Bartonsville (Vt.), who is an old Chicago Tribune man, as late as 1947. His strip was the leader for the Trib's Sunday comic section.

Our series is weekly and was started the first week in July of last year, in a 2-column by six inch size. And as with our other educational projects, we had to make the cartoon panel idea self-supporting. The newspapers were in accord on the cost and your staff contributes its research, etc. So we are now in our second year, with plans to make them available to Vermont's weeklies. (For those of you who are technically minded, we have a cut or engraving made and issue the mats from here to reach the newspapers for a Thursday deadline.)

We may even project them into the advertising field. Did we not have a request from a Montpelier maple sugar firm that they be permitted to purchase the right to use a specific one as a label for their syrup cans this spring?

VERMONT'S BUCCANEER

A Pirate In Vermont in 1880

Did you ever hear that Vermont had a pirate? We hadn't.

The story comes from Middlesex (Vermont). Around the year 1880, we are told

that one stormy evening a man strange to the community, resembling a pirate in general appearance, called at the cottage of Emeline Benner Lewis with the request that he be allowed to leave a small chest in her care. Mrs. Lewis agreeably stored the trunk in her attic, so the story goes.

Years went by, but there was no word from the sailor. A young nephew, George, was inquisitive and finally in 1900 was allowed to open the chest. There were the usual sailor's trinkets, but, most important, with a letter dated at Bristol, England in 1830 (the only clue to the sailor's home), a piece of folded vellum. Nephew George discovered it to be a map of Kennebunk River in Maine. A star marked a small bay, and there were instructions under the star. The map appeared to be about 150 years old.

The following fall, young George chartered a small boat and sailed to Boothbay, Maine. After much hunting and digging, he found a cask entirely covered by a soft green mold. Inside, under handfuls of decayed wood, there were jewels and discolored coins which proved to be gold.

George took his find to a well-known bank in Boston, which finally reported that the loot was valued at $20,000.

George Frederick Benner (according to the 1944 edition of *Pirates and Buccaneers of the Atlantic Coast* by Edward Rowe Snow) is still alive and active on the streets of Boston.

INDIANS IN VERMONT

The Harry M. Woodcock Collection

Vermont boys and girls, and often their Dads and Mothers, are perennially interested in Indians. There has never been an organized study of Indians or Indian life in Vermont — something that VHS hopes to make when funds are secured. We have a fine start, however, in the Woodcock Collection. Mr. Woodcock, although museums outside the state desired his collection and it was valuable enough to be insured for $1000, was loyal to his state after the manner of many a real Vermonter; and he willed his collection to the Society with its exhibit case. When nine years old, he became interested in locating Indian relics, and he carried on the search for forty-nine years. During these years, he gradually became an expert in Indian materials, was often invited to speak to various clubs on the subject, and was in correspondence with experts all over the country. Nearly all the relics were found in Addison County during the years; so the collection is essentially a Vermont one and belongs properly in our State Museum which concentrates on Vermont. Mr. Woodcock was born in East Middlebury, June 24, 1889, and died in Addison, Vt., Feb. 14, 1950. He was a farmer and beekeeper. He was honored in his community for many years, holding various positions of trust. In addition to the Indian collection, other gifts including guns and books were received. We are grateful to Mrs. Woodcock for her co-operation in making arrangements for the transfer of the collection and gifts to VHS. A. W. P.

VERMONT AND INDUSTRY

Institutional Memberships Established

The story of Vermont business and industry is a fascinating one — the story of initiative and courage often facing great difficulties, the utilization of limited resources and creating with them a successful business, the expansion far beyond Vermont borders; and there are many other phases that need to be studied and recorded, not only for the present but the far future. Such a story is bound to be an inspiration to older Vermonters and decidedly so to young Vermonters. There is also a practical side to such a story; we are already beginning a series of practical studies of Vermont industry in the past which should make available authentic data of permanent value to Vermont business and industry. The economic history of the state has been badly neglected; and we feel it is the imperative duty of our Society to use its sources and staff and its outside connections in developing that history. A long perspective is always better than a short one, two sights on a rifle better than one; and history, anyway, is meaningless unless it has a bearing on the present.

We are inviting leading business firms of the state to lend a hand in this work, and have established an Institutional Membership with a fee of $10. The Committee on Industrial Research and Publication which will have general supervision of this activity includes E. W. Miller, chairman, president, The Fellows Gear Shaper Co., Springfield, Vt., Senator Ralph E. Flanders, Theodore F. Kane, Manager of Associated Industries, Inc., Montpelier, James F. Dewey, president A. G. Dewey Co., Quechee, Leon S. Gay, *ex officio,* Gay Bros., Cavendish. Membership is open to any Vermont business firm or any national firm having Vermont interests. Invitations are going out steadily, but we hope that business men who see this *News and Notes* or who hear about the plan will feel free to come into the fold even if our invitations do not reach them immediately; lists at hand are not too satisfactory. These firms are now (Sept. 7) enrolled: Burlington Savings Bank; Polygraphic Co. of America, No. Bennington; North Country Press, St. Albans; Gilman Paper Co., Gilman and New York; Beecher Falls Manufacturing Company, Beecher Falls; Brigham Gelatine Co., Randolph; George F. Adams Company, Moscow; Shearer Chevrolet Company, Burlington; Smith Lumber Company, Inc., Rutland; Vermont Gateway Auto Company, Inc., White River Jct.; Edlund Company, Burlington; Estey Organ Corporation, Brattleboro; Crosby Milling Company, Brattleboro; New England Power Co., Wilmington and Boston; C. P. Smith, Jr., Inc., Burlington; Fellows Gear Shaper Company, Springfield, Vt.; Cary Maple Sugar Co., St. Johnsbury.

12,000 VISITORS VIEW VERMONT DISPLAYS

Record Attendance at Society's Museum

Your renovated and redecorated museum was opened this year for the first time on July 1st, for the annual meeting. Those visitors who could get in while we were in the throes of moving the library of course were allowed to browse around, but the bulk of this year's attendance of 12,041 came during July and August.

When we consider that a total of 4,574 registered during the past two months at the official Information Booth at the State House (ours is the Library and Museum Building), we feel that our attendance, in spite of the Museum's being closed and your staff busy at the moving, compares very well with peak years.

The majority of you have not been able to view the museum; so we intend to feature the new plan of displays in a later issue.

HISTORY AT THE GRASSROOTS

Local Societies Encourage Local History Study

Old Stone House, Brownington, Aug. 16—Nearly 200 attend 98th annual gathering of the Orleans County Historical Society . . . marking of Vermont historical sites urged by Wallace Gilpin of Barton . . . Miss Jean W. Simpson of E. Craftsbury re-elected president with Arthur Davies, Brownington, vice-president; Miss Elizabeth Cofran, Derby, secretary; and Carroll Jenkins, Orleans, treasurer.

Woodstock, Aug. 16—Battle of Bennington commemorated at annual meeting of Woodstock Historical Society . . . open house attracts more than 100 with Philip Cummings as guest speaker . . . Ernest A. Spear, president.

Enosburg Falls, July 4—Franklin County Historical Society wins 2nd prize in holiday parade of floats . . . Lawrence Oliver, president.

Williamstown, Aug. 18—Williamstown Historical Society has first annual meeting . . . Allen Martin and Mrs. Mary G. Nye contribute legends and facts at Williamstown . . . 45 persons join and elect Percy J. Jeffords president.

Shelburne, Aug. 23—Shelburne New England village is feature of national magazine . . . reconstruction and treasures of Mr. and Mrs. J. Watson Webb covered in Sept. 12 issue of *Look*.

St. Albans, May 31—Plans launched for Chester Arthur Park development . . . Vermont Champlain Regional Development Association President, Sen. E. Frank Branon, discloses site to be area around log cabin where Pres. Arthur was born — 3 miles north of Fairfield Ctr.

THE QUESTION BOX

A Query from Scotland

Questions come to us from far and near. Here is one from Scotland which has us "stumped": a correspondent writes — *In the year 1840 (70) members of the Fleming family (all named Fleming), ancestors of a Daniel Fleming of Glasgow, Scotland, emigrated from Glasgow to the United States where they all immediately settled in one town in Vermont. . . The Fleming family now living in Scotland are curious to know where in Vermont these 70 members are settled and if any of the descendants are living.*

Miss Follette, our research librarian, has found Flemings in 31 towns between 1937 and 1879, but no trace of 70 Flemings coming in one group to one town. Is there a Fleming around in Vermont or elsewhere within the range of *News and Notes* who can help us out?

OUR STORY OF THE MONTH

Another One about President Coolidge

Some one told Will Rogers he couldn't make President Coolidge smile. Will accepted the challenge. When introduced to the President, he said seriously: "I'm sorry, I didn't get the name." Coolidge broke into a broad smile, and Will won the bet.

RECORD MONTH FOR GIFTS?

We acknowledge, with sincere thanks, the many gifts to library and museum during the last month. They exemplify the increasing support of the work of the Society — they represent the extension and perpetuation of your idea of what is worthwhile in living. There is not space to allow a listing of the gifts, but we can give you the donors' names:

C. A. Barden, *Wallingford;* Mrs. Helen Gover Burpee, *Palo Alto, Calif.;* Mrs. James L. H. Carr, *St. Albans;* Judge and Mrs. Clarence P. Cowles, *Burlington;* George N. Dale, *Chicago, Ill.;* Mrs. Leonard Doten, *Palo Alto, Calif.;* Mrs. W. B. Fellows, *Tilton, N. H.;* Hon. Leon S. Gay, *Cavendish;* Mrs. H. E. Heyer, *Canton, N. Y.;* Samuel Howell, *Randolph;* H. P. Jackson, *Newark, N. J.;* Mrs. H. Nelson Jackson, *Burlington;* Mrs. George B. Kolk, *Burlington;* Howard G. Marsden, *Manchester;* Mrs. Claude N. Martin, *Littleton, N. H.;* Hon. Charles A. Plumley, *Washington, D. C.;* Miss Clara E. Ranney, *Saxtons River;* Mrs. E. A. Rixford, *East Highgate;* Harold K. Sage, *Normal, Illinois;* Robert Thayer, *Montpelier;* Dr. Frederick Waite, *Dover, N. H.;* Mrs. Harry M. Woodcock, *Vergennes.*

VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MONTPELIER, VERMONT.
Hon. Leon S. Gay, President; Dr. Arthur W. Peach, Director; Mrs. Madelyn Davidson, Editor.

VHS *News and Notes*
VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Montpelier, Vermont

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P. L. & R.

THE VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MONTPELIER, VERMONT

News & Notes

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY

Volume 2 October 1950 Number 2

Was This "Master Humphrey's Clock?"

HISTORIC CLOCK TO CHIME AGAIN

Governor Clement's Gift Under Repair

One of the main attractions of the Society's museum continues to be what has come to be called the "Old English Hall Clock." Through the generosity of two members of our Society, the clock which was damaged by blasting operations a few years ago is now under repair. Soon again we hope to hear the deep mellow tones of the bell which strikes the hours and the silvery chimes which start off Sunday morning by playing *Old Hundred* and continue with a different tune each day—*Johnny's So Long at the Fair* on Monday, *Auld Lang Syne* on Tuesday, *Home Sweet Home* on Wednesday, Annie Laurie on Thursday, *Jennie Jones* on Friday—and finish on Saturday with *The Minstrel Boy* in time to begin all over again Sunday morning.

The historic clock was placed in the reception room of the State House in 1920 by former Governor Percival W. Clement (1919-1920) and chimed the hours through its corridors for nearly a quarter of a century, until it was presented to the Society by the estate of Governor Clement. It was brought to America from an old inn in Chester, England, by Mr. Clement, who bought it from Sherrott and Company in 1916, his original intention being that it adorn the Hotel Woodstock in New York city, of which he was then owner. With a change in plans because of war conditions, the clock came into the custody of the state, and, in 1944, of the Society.

A mystery envelopes the 14-foot clock. It is reported that some time before the Vermont flood of 1927, some one discovered an edition of Dickens at the local (Montpelier) library which contained under "Master Humphrey's Clock" a drawing which was almost identical to the Clement clock. We are trying but cannot